

Duluth Bible Church All Believers' Conference
"Love, Lethargy, and Logistics" • Romans 13:8-14
Pastor Matt Costella

Intro: Here we find a small "package" of verses that really seems to summarize the essence of everything Paul has been saying about our practical Christian walk up to this point. Paul addresses three issues that every Christian must deal with every single day: love, lethargy, and logistics.

I. The Law of Love (vv. 8-10)

A. The ***negative***: "Owe no man anything" (v. 8a).

What Does This Mean?

B. The ***positive***: "But to love one another" (vv. 8b-10).

In What Sense Is This the "Fulfilling of the Law"?

II. The Warning Against Lethargy (vv. 11-12a)

A. ***The assumption***: "Knowing the time"

1. What are some of the characteristics of the times in which we live?

2. What does it mean to "know the time"?

B. **The exhortation:** “Wake up!”

C. **The reason:** “The night is progressing”; “The day is at hand”; “Our salvation is nearer than when we believed.”

- As Christians, we are to “watch and be sober” because Christ could return at any moment and we need to be ready. Consider 1 Thessalonians 5.
- Paul describes what should be the contrasts in thought and behavior between those who know Jesus as Savior and those who do not.

	Unsaved:	Saved:
Pronouns (vv. 3-4, 7-8)	• “They”; “Them”	• “Ye”; “You”; “We”; “Us”
Natures (vv. 4-5)	• “Darkness”	• “Light”
Attitudes (vv. 6-8)	• Doubt, Uncertainty, Anti-God, Living for Self	• Certainty, Hope, God-Fearing, Faithful
Future	• “Overtaken” (vv. 2-7)	• Delivered From (vv. 8-11)

III. **The Logistics of our Journey (vv. 12b-14)** — As we move from “first-tense salvation” (justification) to “third tense salvation” (glorification), what characteristics are necessary in this life?

1. Faith

2. Love

3. Hope

Notice the logistics of our journey:

A. The positive: put on the _____ of light—the Lord Jesus Christ

B. The negative: cast off the works of _____—make no provision for the flesh